AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows.

Please replace paragraph [65] with the following:

--By way of example, a path selection rule may select the path based on any of the following path information in which IP packets match the rule: a primary path, a secondary path, and a tertiary path. The primary path ~~is~~ may be specified in any path selection rule. The secondary path is used only when the primary path has failed. If no secondary path is specified, any IP packets that match the rule can be discarded when the primary path fails. The tertiary path is specified only if a secondary path is specified. The tertiary path is selected if both the primary and secondary paths have failed. If no tertiary path is specified, any IP packets that match the rule can be discarded when both the primary and secondary paths fail. Path selection may be generalized such that the path selection rule can select up to N paths where the Nth path is used only if the (N-1)th path fails. The example above where N=3 is merely illustrative, although N is typically a fairly small number.--

Please replace paragraph [79] with the following:

--When a Connection Request message is received from a peer TSK (step 403), the TCP Spoofing Kernel 280 allocates a CCB for the connection and then stores all of the relevant information from the CR message in the CCB. TSK 280 of PEP end point 404 then uses this information to generate a TCP <SYN> segment, as in step 415, to send to the remote host 406. The MSS in the <SYN> segment is set to the value received from the TSK peer of PEP end point 404. When the remote host responds with a TCP <SYN,ACK> segment (step 417), TSK 280 of PEP end point ~~402~~ 404 sends a Connection Established message to its TSK peer of the ~~remote~~ PEP end point ~~404~~ 402 (step 419), including in the CE message the MSS that is sent by the local host in the <SYN,ACK> segment. TSK 280 of PEP end point ~~402~~ 404 also responds, as in step 421, with a TCP <ACK> segment to complete the local three-way handshake. The peer TSK of PEP end point 404 then forwards the data that is received from TSK 280 to the host, per step 423. Concurrently, in step 425, the remote host 406 sends data to the peer TSK of PEP end point 404, which acknowledges receipt of the data by issuing an <ACK> segment to the ~~remote PEP~~

~~end point 404~~ host 406, per step 427. Simultaneously with the acknowledgement, the data is sent to TSK 280 of PEP end point 402 (step 429).--

Please replace paragraph [87] with the following:

-- For WAN-to-local traffic (i.e., downstream direction), the remote PEP end point 503 receives IP packets from its WAN interface 230 (Figure 2). IP packets that are not addressed to the end point 503 are simply forwarded (as appropriate) to the local interface 220 (Figure 2). IP packets addressed to the end point 503, which have a next protocol header type of "PEP Backbone Protocol (PBP)" are forwarded to the backbone protocol kernel 503c. The backbone protocol kernel 503c extracts the TCP data and forwards it to the TCP spoofing kernel 503b for transmission on the appropriate spoofed TCP connection. In addition to carrying TCP data, the backbone protocol connection is used by the TCP spoofing kernel 501b to send control information to its peer TCP spoofing kernel 503b in the remote PEP end point 503 to coordinate connection establishment and connection termination.--

Please replace paragraph [92] with the following:

-- Figure 6 illustrates the flow of IP packets through a PEP end point, according to an embodiment of the present invention. When IP packets are received at the local LAN interface 220, the PEP end point 210 determines (as shown by decision point A), whether the packets are destined for a host that is locally situated; if so, the IP packets are forwarded to the proper local LAN interface 220. If the IP packets are destined for a remote host, then the PEP end point 210 decides, per decision point B, whether the traffic is a TCP segment. If the PEP end point 210 determines that in fact the packets are TCP segments, then the TSK 280 determines whether the TCP connection should be spoofed (decision point C). However, if the PEP end point 210 determines that the packets are not TCP segments, then the BPK 282 processes the traffic, along with the PK 284 and the PSK 286 for eventual transmission out to the WAN. It should be noted that the BPK 282 does not process unspoofed IP packets; i.e., the packets flow directly to PK 284. As seen in Figure 6, traffic that is received from the WAN interface 230 is examined to determine whether the traffic is a proper PBP segment (decision point D) for the particular PEP end point 210; if the determination is in the affirmative, then the packets are sent to the BPK 282 and then the TSK 280.--

Please replace paragraph [97] with the following:

-- Figure 8 shows the interfaces of the PEP end point implemented as an IP gateway, according to one embodiment of the present invention. By way of example, an IP Gateway 801 has a single local LAN interface, which is an enterprise interface ~~803~~ 801. The IP Gateway 803 employs two WAN interfaces 805 for sending and receiving IP packets to and from remote site PEP End Points: a backbone LAN interface and a wide area access (WAA) LAN interface. --

Please replace paragraph [101] with the following:

-- Figure 10 shows a Multimedia VSAT implementation of the PEP end point, according to one embodiment of the present invention. A Multimedia VSAT 1001, in an exemplary embodiment, has two local LAN interfaces 1003. Support for one or more local PPP serial port interfaces may be utilized. The Multimedia VSAT 1001 has two WAN interfaces 1005 for sending IP packets to hub site PEP End Points: a VSAT inroute and one of its LAN interfaces. The Multimedia VSAT 1001 thus has three interfaces for receiving IP packets from hub site PEP End Points, the VSAT outroute and both of its LAN interfaces 1003. A Multimedia VSAT ~~1003~~ 1001 may support uses of both of its LAN interfaces ~~1003~~ 1001 at the same time for sending and receiving IP packets to and from hub site PEP End Points. The Multimedia VSAT 1003 further supports the use of a VADB serial port interface for sending and receiving IP packets to and from the hub site PEP End Points. --

Please replace paragraph [103] with the following:

-- Figure 12 shows a diagram of an exemplary network management system (NMS) for PEP end points, according to an embodiment of the present invention. As shown, a communication system 1200 includes a hub (or local) site PEP end point 1201 that contains a Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) agent 1203. As previously discussed, hub (or local) site PEP end point 1201 may communicate via a WAN 1205 to a remote PEP end point 1207, which similarly provides a SNMP agent 1209. In an exemplary embodiment, hub (or local) site PEP end point 1201 connects to a LAN 1211. A network management system 1213 receives data from SNMP agents 1203 and 1209. The NMS 1213 maintains a database 1215 that stores an event log to assist in debugging of either of the hub (or local) site PEP end

point 1201 or the remote PEP end point. Also, the NMS 1213 includes an operator console 1217 to support logging in of events.--

Please replace paragraph [129] with the following:

-- Network link 1621 typically provides data communication through one or more networks to other data devices. For example, network link 1621 may provide a connection through local area network 1623 to a host computer 1625 or to data equipment operated by an Internet Service Provider (ISP), shown as network 1627. ISP 1627 in turn provides data communication services through to the Internet ~~505~~. In addition, LAN 1623 ~~is~~ can be linked to an intranet ~~1629~~ (not shown). The intranet ~~1629~~, LAN 1623 and Internet ~~505~~ all use electrical, electromagnetic or optical signals that carry digital data streams. The signals through the various networks and the signals on network link 1621 and through communication interface 1619, which carry the digital data to and from computer system 1601, are exemplary forms of carrier waves transporting the information. --